

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DEAE-00 SNM-02 IO-13 /093 W

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R 221022Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3859

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMCONSUL MANDALAY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

DEA BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 RANGOON 2136

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJ: JOINT WEEKA #28, JULY 15-22

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1. BANGLADESH PRESIDENT VISITS (LOU)

BANGLADESH PRESIDENT MAJOR GENERAL ZIAUR RAHMAN IS PAYING A STATE VISIT TO BURMA JULY 20-23. THUS FAR, THE VISIT HAS CONSISTED OF THE NORMAL POMP AND CEREMONY PLUS DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT NE WIN AND DINNERS HOSTED BY NE WIN AND GENERAL SAN YU. THE EXCHANGE OF TOASTS AT NE WIN'S STATE DINNER PRODUCED ONLY EXPRESSIONS OF MUTUAL

FRIENDSHIP AND THE DESIRE TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN BILATERAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION ON INTERNATIONAL MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST. DACCA RADIO HAS REPORTED THAT THE BURMESE HAVE AGREED TO EXPEDITE THE SHIPMENT OF 100,000 TONS OF RICE THAT BANGLADESH IS PURCHASING FROM BURMA THIS YEAR.

COMMENT: THE VISIT, THE FIRST BY A BANGLADESH PRESIDENT TO BURMA, SEEMS TO BE ROUTINE. IT RECIPROCATES NE WIN'S 1974 VISIT TO DACCA. IN SPITE OF THEIR COMMON BORDER, BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE NOT OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO EITHER (ALTHOUGH THE ABOVE-MENTIONED RICE PURCHASE IS FAIRLY SUBSTANTIAL), NOR ARE THERE ANY SERIOUS BILATERAL PROBLEMS. THE MOST CONTENTIOUS ISSUE WHICH MAY ARISE IS ADJUDICATION OF COMPETING JURISDICTIONAL CLAIMS OVER PORTIONS OF THE BAY OF BENGAL.

2. RUMORS OF POLITICAL TURMOIL REMAIN UNSUBSTANTIATED (CONF) RUMORS OF AN IMPENDING HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL SHAKE-UP IN THE GUB, TO INCLUDE THE REMOVAL OF BSPP GENERAL SECRETARY GENERAL SAN YU AND MANY OF HIS SUPPORTERS (SEE WEEKA #27, ITEM 1), HAVE ONCE AGAIN PROVED PREMATURE AT BEST. SAN YU HAS PLAYED A PROMINENT ROLE IN THE ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE VISIT OF BANGLADESH PRESIDENT ZIAUR RAHMAN, AND, PERHAPS IN AN ATTEMPT TO SQUASH THE RUMORS, HIS ROLE HAS BEEN WELL PUBLICIZED. MOREOVER, PEOPLE'S POLICE FORCE DIRECTOR GENERAL U SHWE THAN AND DEFENSE CONFIDENTIAL

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SERVICE INTELLIGENCE DIRECTOR COL. MYO AUNG BOTH TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT THERE WAS NO SUBSTANCE TO THE RUMORS OF MAJOR CHANGES AND SAID SPECIFICALLY THAT SAN YU AND MILITARY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT COL. TIN OO ARE NOT RPT NOT IN JEOPARDY. (COL. TIN OO IS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO US BECAUSE OF HIS MAJOR ROLE IN THE ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM.)

NEVERTHELESS, RUMORS PERSIST THAT IMPORTANT PERSONNEL

CHANGES, INVOLVING SAN YU AND/OR HIS SUPPORTERS, CAN BE EXPECTED SOON, PERHAPS LATE NEXT MONTH. WE WILL CONTINUE TO WATCH THE SITUATION, BUT FOR THE TIME BEING WE SEE NO REASON TO EXPECT ANY DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENTS. SOME LOWER LEVEL CHANGES, HOWEVER, REMAIN A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY.

3. NE WIN TOURS MANDALAY, SAGAING DIVISIONS (LOU) PRESIDENT NE WIN TOURED MANDALAY AND SAGAING DIVISIONS JULY 14-16, VISITING VARIOUS AGRICULTURAL, INDUSTRIAL, AND SOCIAL PROJECTS. CONSUL MANDALAY REPORTS THAT THE REAL PURPOSE OF THE TRIP MAY HAVE BEEN AN ATTEMPT BY THE PRESIDENT TO CHAGE HIS LUCK, WHICH HAS NOT BEEN VERY

GOOD LATELY WITH HIS CHINA TRIP LESS THAN SUCCESSFUL AND THE LOSS OF HIS RECENTLY ACQUIRED WIFE. ACCORDING TO LOCAL ACCOUNTS, NE WIN EITHER CONSULTED MONKS FOR ASTROLOGICAL ASSISTANCE OR PERFORMED ACTS WITH ASTROLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE DESIGNED TO IMPOROVE HIS FORTUNES.

4. TAUNGGYI NARCOTICS ADDICTION WARD OPENED (UNCL)
A 25-BED NARCOTICS ADDICTION TREATMENT WARD WAS OPENED JULY 20 AT THE TAUNGGYI HOSPITAL. CONSTRUCTION OF THE WARD WAS BEGUN IN JULY 1975. ITS COST OF OVER 300,000 KYATS WAS CONTRIBUTED BY THE PEOPLE OF TAUNGGYI.

THIS IS THE FACILITY SHOWN TO DR. BOURNE AND MS. FALCO DURING THEIR APRIL VISIT TO BURMA.
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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
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INFO CINCPAC
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
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5. BURMESE COOPERATIVE OFFICIALS VISIT USSR (UNC)

A THREE-MEMBER GUB DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE COOPERATIVE SECTOR DEPARTED JULY 16 FOR A TEN-DAY STUDY TOUR IN THE SOVIET UNION. THE DELEGATION CONSISTS OF U AUNG BA, CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL COOPERATIVES SOCIETY, U HLA THWIN, HEAD OF THE RRAWADDY DIVISION COOPERATIVE DEPARTMENT AND U AUNG OF THE COTTAGE

INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT. THE GROUP WILL OBSERVE COOPERATIVE WORK IN THE SOVIET UNION.

COMMENT: THE GUB IS COMMITTED TO STRENGTHENING THE COOPERATIVE SECTOR IN BURMA, AND IT CONTINUES TO LOOK TO THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER EAST EUROPEAN NATIONS AS MODELS TO FOLLOW IN CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS EFFORT.

6. THE LAST WEEKA (UNC)

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTORS AND THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE (STATE 167151), THIS WILL BE THE LAST ISSUE OF RANGOON'S WEEKA. HENCEFORTH, SIGNIFICANT EVENTS NORMALLY COVERED IN THE WEEKA WILL BE REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER INTERESTED ADDRESSEES TELEGRAPHICALLY BY INDIVIDUAL ITEM. BACKGROUND AND "COLOR" MATERIAL OF THE TYPE PREVIOUSLY INCLUDED IN THE WEEKA WILL BE SUBMITTED BY POUCH.
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